

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212422

NODIS
FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 25736 ACTION STATE SEP 5.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25736

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: US, VN
SUBJ: US/VN RELATIONS: POSSIBLE MEETING DURING UNGA

REFS: A. PARIS 23408, B. PARIS 25019

1. AT THE END OF A CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 5 ABOUT OTHER SUBJECTS, SRV LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VIETNAM IN NEW YORK. HE NOTED THAT HE DID NOT YET HAVE INFORMATION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE SRV DELEGATION TO THE UNGA, BUT HE WAS SURE THAT IT WOULD BE HEADED BY AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL. CONTACTS IN NEW YORK DURING THE UNGA WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL IF
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RPT IF BOTH SIDES THOUGHT THEY WERE OPPORTUNE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND A TELEGRAM TO HANOI TO SOUND OUT THE MFA ON THE IDEA, AND HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS EMBOFF COULD GIVE HIM ABOUT USG VIEWS.

2. COMMENT: ON THIS OCCASION, LIKE THOSE CITED IN REFTELS, DO THANH WAS CLEARLY SPEAKING ON THE BASIS OF

GUIDANCE FROM HIS AMBASSADOR. WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE REASON FOR THE SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING MANNER OF SPEAKING OF A NEW YORK MEETING IS THE SRV DESIRE TO AVOID APPEARING TO BE THE "DEMANDEUR" FOR A HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT. WHAT SEEMS POSSIBLE IS THAT THE SECOND CONVERSATION (REF B) WAS THE RESULT OF AMBASSADOR SUNG'S VIEW THAT DO THANH MAY HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION IN THE FIRST CONVERSATION THAT THE SRV WAS INDEED ASKING FOR THE CONTACT. THE CURRENT STATEMENT SEEMS DESIGNED TO MAKE A MEETING CONTINGENT ON BOTH SIDES' DECIDING THAT TALKS WOULD BE USEFUL, AVOIDING SADDLING EITHER SIDE WITH AN INITIATIVE.

3. WE ARE UNAWARE HERE OF POSSIBLE CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK WHERE WE HAVE PERHAPS ALREADY CONVEYED OUR VIEWS ON A BILATERAL MEETING. SINCE DO THANH SAID HE WOULD SOUND OUT HANOI, IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE TO GIVE DO THANH SOME PRELIMINARY USG VIEWS. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SRV WISHES THE CONTACT IF IT DOES NOT LOOK AS THOUGH IT IS ASKING FOR IT. HARTMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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